

Serial No.: 10/070,780
Case No.: 20519P
Page 2

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

9. (currently amended) A method of determining whether a candidate compound is an inhibitor of a *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MurC polypeptide comprising:

(a) providing at least one host cell harboring an expression vector that includes a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and

(b) culturing said host cell under conditions that promote the expression of said polypeptide, and

(c) contacting at least one of said cells with the candidate to permit the interaction of the candidate with the MurC polypeptide, and

(d) determining whether the candidate is an inhibitor of the MurC polypeptide by ascertaining the relative activity of the polypeptide in the presence of the candidate.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein in step (c) the relative activity is determined by comparing a measurement of MurC polypeptide activity of the sample before step (b) to a measurement of MurC polypeptide activity of the sample after step (b).

9. (Currently amended) A method of determining whether a candidate compound is an inhibitor of a *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MurC polypeptide comprising:

- (a) providing at least one host cell harboring an expression vector that includes a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and
- (b) contacting ~~at least one of said~~ at least one cell[[s]] with the candidate to permit the interaction of the candidate with the MurC polypeptide, and
- (c) determining whether the candidate is an inhibitor of the MurC polypeptide by ascertaining the ~~relative~~ activity of the polypeptide in the presence of the candidate.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 has the ~~nucleotide~~ polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Pending claim 11

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the determination of activity in step (c) ~~the relative activity is determined by~~ comprises comparing a measurement of MurC polypeptide activity of said at least one cell before step (b) to a measurement of MurC polypeptide activity of said at least one cell after step (b).

12. (Withdrawn) A compound that is an inhibitor of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

- (a) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- (b) a polypeptide that is a naturally occurring mutant or polymorphic form of (a).

13. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an inhibitor of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

- (a) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- (b) a polypeptide that is a naturally occurring mutant or polymorphic form of (a).

14. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of a patient in need of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment for a bacterial infection comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an inhibitor of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

- (a) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,